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## **NEWS**

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**STATEMENT OF**  
**THE HONORABLE HERBERT H. BATEMAN**  
**CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY READINESS**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY**

*March 20, 1998*

I would like to welcome everyone here today to this joint field hearing of the military Readiness and military Personnel subcommittees of the House National Security Committee. This hearing is designed to focus on the Army's plan to build Active Army and National Guard integrated divisions and the readiness of Army forces designated as follow-on forces.

This hearing here at Ft Riley, Kansas is the third in a series of field hearings held by the military Readiness subcommittee. Today we are joined by our colleagues on the military Personnel subcommittee. We conduct these field hearings in an effort to get outside of Washington to hear from our military about the challenges they face in their day-to-day lives. Members of National Security Committee know that getting a understanding of the efforts required to maintain the equipment, to conduct training and maintain a high state of readiness can best be done where it happens and may be different than the stories we hear in Washington.

Members of the committee continue to have a growing concern over many of the issues affecting readiness, including operating tempo, increased deployments, morale, the impact of peacekeeping operations, and the increasing use of training funds for other purposes, just to name a few. We continue to hear from the leadership in the Pentagon that readiness is as high as ever and that we are ready to go to war. What is not often talked about is the tremendous effort that is required just to keep up with the pace of operations tempo required in today's Army.

I am personally concerned about the impact on an installation and the units who are left behind when units are deployed for lengthy periods of time as a result of contingency and other operations. These units often find themselves working harder with longer hours and fewer assets and personnel. I know that Ft Riley has provided forces to Bosnia and I am anxious to hear about the impact on this installation and the units that were left behind. We want to hear from men and women who are actually working in the units, having to find ways to get all the work done, and finding time to spend with their families.

This hearing is about two separate, but related issues. The Army is making a serious effort to overcome the criticism that it focuses too much on the active force to the detriment of the reserve components. General Dennis Reimer, the Chief of Staff of the Army, argues that there is only one Army, not only in name but in actuality in their preparation to fight in war. To that end, the Army has developed a plan to build two integrated Army divisions. Each division will consist of an active duty command structure and three Army National Guard Enhanced Brigades. One of these division headquarters will be located here at Ft Riley. We have a great interest in the Army's efforts and we look forward to testimony from our first panel who will address this issue.

The second area that we will cover this morning is the readiness of the Army's forces, especially the later on follow-on forces deploying forces. In this time of limited budget and constrained resources overall, we know that there are also limited resources to be distributed throughout the Army. Our interest here today is to get a better understanding of the impact these limited resources have on units who are lower in priority for receiving resources according to the Army's tiered resourcing plan.

It appears to me that often the emphasis is placed on the most visible units that are the first to deploy in times of a crisis. We have all seen the pictures on CNN of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division being deployed somewhere, or being put on alert because they are often thought to be the first to go in harm's way. However, it is my contention that a division like the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division has a high enough priority within the Army that it will get what it needs to train its forces and maintain its equipment. I believe it is the later deploying units, such as those represented here today from Ft Riley, and the units represented on our third panel from Ft Drum, New York that may force the greatest readiness challenge. Knowing little of the challenges faced by these units makes me want to hear from the units themselves so that I can get a true status of their unit's training, equipment and morale.

We are very fortunate to have three panels of witnesses who can speak to these issues today. The first panel is made up of representatives from the Active Component and members of the Army's National Guard who will speak to the Army effort to build integrated active and Army National Guard divisions. Our second panel will be made up of members of the General Accounting Office who will report on their efforts to review the status of the Army's later deploying units. This work was requested by the military Readiness Subcommittee and is nearing completion.

I am especially pleased to have as our third panel, a selection of commanders and senior Non Commission Officers from units here at Ft Riley and from Ft Drum, NY. They represent the men and women who make up some of the later deploying units and I look forward to their testimony and to having a dialogue with them on how Congress can help to make their lives better.